

or just plain negligent. Will we in Congress look away and let workers be injured and/or killed by their employer's greed, indifference, or negligence?

These are family tragedies, and I cannot imagine that the families and friends of these individuals see any valid or compelling reason to reduce OSHA enforcement funds. Such cuts assault the average working American families, and we all pay the price.

#### GOVERNMENT REFORM FIELD HEARINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that you are in the chair during these comments. We, as you know, went out to Cleveland, Ohio, on July 14 to hold the first of the town-meeting-type field hearings by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, which you chair. The hearing was designed as an open forum where experts in the private sector, such as the executive vice president of TRW, and those in the public sector, such as the mayor of Philadelphia, and the average American taxpayers in an open forum could voice their views on creating a new 21st century Government.

One of the witnesses that testified before the committee membership was the treasurer of the State of Ohio, J. Kenneth Blackwell, who indicated that, "The Federal Government enjoys access to world capital markets that so far has been unlimited. We have been fortunate that foreign investors and central banks still have sufficient confidence in the strength of our Nation's economy to purchase much of our debt. It is unclear, however," he said, "that this situation will continue. The Federal credit card may be reaching its limit."

As Members of Congress, we live with constant reminders of the staggering Federal deficit. The fact remains that our national deficit is four times the size it was just two decades ago. The time of inefficiencies and waste is over. The time for change is now. The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, under your leadership, is dedicated to restructuring our current wasteful and inefficient Federal Government agencies and creating a 21st century Government that will be a reliable source of service to all for many generations to come.

#### EDUCATION CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ] is recognized during morning business for 1½ minutes.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, some would say that the new majority leadership has gone way beyond mean-spirited and is now in a cold-blooded kill-

ing mode. Why? Because in marking up the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill, they began what many of us believe is the killing of the American dream by slashing programs that help young people prepare for the future. They eliminate our investment in the future.

They cut Head Start. They cut student loans. They cut bilingual education. They cut special education. They cut summer jobs for youth. They cut title I. They cut safe and drug-free schools. They cut education for homeless children and youth.

And, as long as they were cutting, they cut taxes for the rich, and the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. Eventually, I believe, only the children of the rich will be able to attend college, to compete in the classroom, to get a job at a decent wage.

Mr. Speaker, that does not project the promise of a better tomorrow for anyone.

I have a question. Is that the real agenda?

#### SPEAKING TO SENIORS ABOUT MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SAM JOHNSON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely disgusted with the lies and misinformation coming from the Democrats about Medicare. This past weekend, Democrats held town meetings with seniors to spread fear about the Republican efforts to save Medicare. One was held in my hometown of Dallas.

I find it unconscionable that these Democrats can tell seniors that Republicans are cutting Medicare when our budget increases Medicare spending by 5.8 percent every year over the next 7 years. Yes, you heard me right. Medicare spending increases by 5.8 percent every year per patient. Spending will increase from \$4,800 in 1995 to \$6,700 in the year 2002; and that is more of an increase than your usual annual wage increase. It is not a cut, and anyone who says it is either needs to take math over again or try to lie better.

The worst part of this big lie campaign is that the news media has fallen right into their hands. The Dallas paper did not even bother to cover Medicare meetings that were held in Dallas earlier with over 300 seniors at each of three different meetings.

I was there. I held them. We discussed the problems with Medicare and talked openly about the possible solutions with seniors.

I know seniors have the experience with Medicare necessary to provide us with good ideas for reform. So instead of holding meetings to scare them about Medicare, I am making them part of the solution. And I think the seniors deserve that.

This newspaper chose to run an article which, as the reporter freely admit-

ted, was based almost solely on propaganda brochures passed out at the Democrats' big lie meeting. The paper never bothered to check the facts with any member of either one of the congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare or anyone else that might be able to clarify facts for this story.

This irresponsible journalism does a huge disservice to my constituents and others around the Nation and only makes the business of saving Medicare just that much harder.

But American seniors should not be as concerned with what the Democrats are telling them as what the Democrats are not telling them. Although it probably was not mentioned at this weekend's meeting, Medicare is facing an enormous crisis.

The Medicare Board of Trustees, which includes four Clinton-appointed Cabinet members, made it clear that Medicare is going broke and will be bankrupt in just 7 years. So unless Congress does something to help the system, there is not going to be any Medicare at all.

Democrats are not being honest with the seniors. They will throw out lies and use scare tactics, but when it comes to the facts, they have nothing to say.

Now I am going to turn 65 myself this year, and I am really worried that there are people like this in this Congress, people who would rather play partisan games than sit down with us and figure out how to help today's seniors and future seniors in America by saving Medicare.

So to the seniors in Dallas I say, I am sorry that you have been dragged into this political maneuvering. This issue is really too important to be left to politics as usual, and I assure you, with or without the Democrats, we are going to pass a bill this year that will protect, preserve, and strengthen Medicare for everyone in America.

#### SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING FOR AMERICA'S WORK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this HHS bill is worse than I ever thought possible. This bill will go down in history because it marks the beginning of the end of the Federal Government's role in education and training. It is sweeping and radical legislation which guts our education system, weakens workplace safety and makes a mockery of our efforts to get families off welfare. It makes college education almost impossible for not only the very poor, but also for the working poor and for middle-income families.

This bill ignores the Government's responsibility to educate our kids. It makes it impossible for mothers to get